

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Nature Photography Contest 2011 Contest Rules

The Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Nature Photography Contest is open to all photographers, amateur or professional. There are two age groups for each of the three contest categories: Youth (up to and including age 17) and Adult (age 18 and older).

Submitted photographs will be judged by a panel of local photographers. Winners will be announced and awards given at a reception for the artists and the general public to be held in the Refuge visitor center auditorium on Sunday, October 9, 2011 beginning at 2:00 PM.

Entries may be in any or all of three categories: 1. Landscapes (including seascapes), 2. Native Flowers and Plants and, 3. Native Wildlife. The Native Wildlife category includes photographs of native mammals, birds, fish, insects, and amphibians. The Native Flowers and Plants category is limited to Plum Island's native wild flora. No photograph in any category may contain people or manmade structures.

All photographs entered into the contest must have been taken either within the boundary of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and/or on Plum Island after January 1, 2010.

For the purposes of this contest, "native" should be taken to mean "not introduced by humans." Photographs of domestic animals are not permitted in the Native Wildlife category. With respect to flowers and plants, the matter can be confusing. Cultivated garden flowers and plants or those which have escaped from gardens and now grow in the wild are considered non-native. Photographs of them cannot be entered in the Native Flowers and Plants category.

Only color prints no larger than 12"x16" will be accepted. Each print should be matted in white, but unframed. The following information should appear on the reverse side of the matte: name of photographer, mailing address, phone number, email address, title of the photograph, and contest category. The total dimensions (*i.e.* the photograph plus the matte) cannot exceed 16"x 20." Prints resulting from either film or digital capture are acceptable in all categories.

NOTE: Please use adequate adhesive. It is strongly suggested that all prints be mounted to the matte board (not inserted or taped). Spray mounting adhesive is available in many art or photographic-supply stores. Peel and stick mattes are another option. Proper mounting will preserve, protect, and better present your photograph. It will also prevent mattes and/or photographs from coming loose and falling during the exhibit.

To be entered in the contest, photographs must be mailed or hand-delivered to the Refuge Office no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, September 30, 2011. The Refuge headquarters is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA, 01950. Refuge hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 – 4:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Following the contest, photographers will be responsible for retrieving their prints from the Refuge headquarters. Entries not picked up by January 1, 2012 will become the property of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge assumes no liability for entries lost or damaged during the exhibit. There is no entry fee for the 2011 contest.

Each photographer is limited to a total of three entries, irrespective of category.

First, second, and third place winners will be determined in each of the contest categories for both age groups. The grand prize for "Best of Show" is a one day photo workshop with acclaimed nature photographer Steven Morello.

If you have further questions about the contest, please contact the Refuge at (978) 465-5753.